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# The Highlander

Friday **7 October 2011** | Issue 1

## Haliburton County's Independent Voice

# Scott storms back

Beats incumbent Johnson by 6,000 votes

By **Terrance Gavan** - Lindsay

She's the daughter of a politician. And during her acceptance speech, after capturing a stunning landslide in Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock, Progressive Conservative candidate Laurie Scott stopped for a moment to remember her roots, and her dad.

"My family has a long history of public service in this riding," said Scott, shortly after she was declared the winner over Liberal incumbent Rick Johnson.

"My father was tremendously proud to serve as the federal Member of Parliament for many, many years. And today would have been his 90th birthday. So I think we should say thank you Bill for what he did for all of us.

"And he certainly taught me that to serve is one of the highest honours."

Scott then made a point of graciously thanking all of her opponents. "You guys have been fantastic. And now I want you to join me in congratulating all the candidates in the election," said Scott. "It's not easy to put your name on a ballot and they all deserve a round of applause.

"And please give Rick a round of applause. He did a great job for this riding."

She then glanced over to a television to her left and nodded to the results, which were flashing 53 seats for the Liberals, just one shy of the magic number 54.

"It certainly looks like we're headed to a minority Liberal government, but it feels good to be the MPP of this riding again," said Scott, who gave up her seat in 2009, allowing PC Leader John Tory to run against Johnson in a by-election.



Progressive Conservative candidate Laurie Scott receives a congratulatory call from Canoe FM.

Back then, pundits opined that Tory lost because a great many PC faithful simply sat on their hands, dissatisfied with Scott's decision to leave her seat.

Thus this election was to be a mandate on Scott's viability within the party: whether people were able to forgive, and forget.

Scott said afterward that she was humbled by their support.

Final numbers at press time had Scott with 45% of the vote, Johnson with 34%, the NDP's Don Abel at 17%, the Green's Anita Payne at 3%, and Charles Olito of The Freedom Party with 0.5%.

"I am immensely honoured for the trust you put in me and I promise that I will not let you down," Scott told her supporters just before leaving the stage to celebrate. Shortly afterwards, Johnson and his entourage made a quick stop at the Country Club to congratulate Scott on her victory.

### Riding wanted change, says Scott

In the post-speech scrum, Scott was asked to explain her victory over a strong Liberal incumbent. Scott hammered the same talking points expressed right through the election by her leader, Tim Hudak.

"Over the 18 months since I left my seat, I travelled all over this riding," Scott told her supporters packing the room at the Lindsay Golf and Country Club. "And I heard the same thing over and over. Folks were saying, 'Laurie, it seems that every time I turn around I'm asked to pay more and more and at the same time I feel like I'm getting less and less in return.'

"The people of this riding wanted change and they got it." "I can tell you that a year and a half ago I realized that the people here had had enough of the McGuinty government. I feel honored that the people had faith in me and took me back."

continued on page 2

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# County news

continued from page 1

## Johnson gracious in defeat

Rick Johnson was visibly shaken as he strode into Scott's room to congratulate her. However by the time he returned to his own party at the Olympia Restaurant in Lindsay, he seemed rejuvenated as he addressed a packed house of his own.

"It's strange," laughed Johnson, addressing his supporters. "We've got more people at this party than they did at the other one." That prompted cheers from the Liberal supporters.

"I'll start with a very important message: the voters are never wrong. And while we may be disappointed with the decision tonight, Laurie has been entrusted by the people of Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock to represent the riding for the next four years, and we need to congratulate her."

He was gracious in defeat and said: "There's another adventure starting tomorrow and we will gracefully and gratefully get on that adventure."

Asked what happened, Johnson was at a loss to explain it.

"I don't know what happened," said Johnson. "We said we were going to have a clean campaign, no negative stuff and we did that. We were still running into people yesterday who were saying 'tax man' stuff. That's unfortunate. So maybe down the road, I really hope this American style politics doesn't play into our elections."

"You look at the map and you've got northern Ontario voting one way; central Ontario going another way; and urban Ontario going another way. So we really have to get a good handle on why this split happens."

## Johnson said he stands by his record.

"It wasn't for lack of effort. I think I've done a good job and I'm proud of the work I've done here," said Johnson. "But I guess when it comes down to a campaign, that's just not enough."



Rick Johnson arrives to congratulate Laurie Scott, followed by campaign manager, Paul Hough.

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**Carol Moffatt**  
Algonquin Highlands

"Newspapers, to me, are about integrity and journalistic process. Competition in newspapers, as in any business, is healthy."



**Barb Reid**  
Minden Hills

"We definitely need a second paper in the County. I think it's really exciting and I wish you guys much success."



**Murray Fearrey**  
Dysart et al

"It's private enterprise and private enterprise competes with private enterprise, whatever the people support, that'll be business and business creates jobs."



**Dave Burton**  
Highlands East  
"I haven't heard anything about it, you caught me totally off guard. I'll be looking forward to seeing it."

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# Election comment

## All Candidates: feisty, lively and passionate

Monday's all-candidate's meeting was a feisty evening of passionate appeals and lively debate. The sponsors succeeded in securing the appearance of all five candidates and ran a programme combining questions from the moderator, the audience and from candidates to each other.

Though the one-on-ones were entertaining and at times riveting, the most revealing moment of the debate had to be when the candidates were asked which part of their training or experience would have prepared them to make decisions on behalf of the public. Rick Johnson was the first to answer, commenting it was great that anyone could run for office and that you didn't need any particular knowledge.

Those who were there would have been forgiven for cracking a smile at this endorsement of populism. Listening to their tangled attempts to explain their often contradictory policies, one might have wondered *don't these guys understand that might be part of the problem?*

It is not acceptable for parties and politicians to make policy on subjects they know nothing about. It doesn't take a degree, just the basic understanding you might get from a good book or two.

On economics (and real life), so you understand that you can't spend more, tax less and still balance a budget.

On healthcare, so you understand that part of the reason our system is broke is because we do things like pay \$7,000 a month for a medication when a \$7 medication would do the same thing.

On energy, so you understand that you can't supply the energy needs of the Province and be against wind, nuclear, coal, gas and solar power generation at the same time.

On management, so you don't pay people \$750,000 a year when an equal or better candidate is available for a third of that.

The public service is full of quite a few loyal and talented people who are tied up in knots by elected ministers who do not understand how to manage organizations, how to plan for the long term or even what their own ministries do. So they spend their time playing in an elaborate theatre of official meetings and mock debate while the people doing the work alternate between vying for their attention and avoiding their potentially meddlesome gaze.

Politicians instinctively distrust the public service, because they are not of it, and that's why the public service is so inefficient: because everything must be done twice, by three times as many people, to ensure every possible behind is covered and every possible political consideration managed, so that the Minister will allow the work to get done.

And when the Minister is still more concerned about his or her job than the state of healthcare or mining, call in the consultants and pay \$20mm for a report. Because he thinks knowledge isn't a requirement for the job, he'll be unable to evaluate the recommendations and will have to accept them, lest he be accused of wasting money on consultants. That's how you get things like e-Health.

Of our five candidates, only Laurie Scott answered the question, saying she was a nurse of course. It was one of the more relevant statements of the evening, and her campaign, though oddly not something her campaign mentioned very often.

It is great that anyone can run for office. But once elected, our representatives owe it to us to brush up on the basics of public policy and key issues, not to give us an *aw shucks* and tell us we shouldn't expect them to know too much.



A deer ponders its choice of candidates outside of the Haliburton Legion.

# Editorial opinion



## A Three-Peat to Remember

By Stephen Patrick

Last night “Premier Dad” kept his cool, stayed the course, and made his family happy once again, just in time for Thanksgiving.

Third helpings of turkey for Dalton, but only a pale, bitter tea party for young Tim.

With his third consecutive victory, Ontario Liberal Premier Dalton McGuinty became the most successful provincial Liberal leader since Mitch Hepburn almost 80 years ago. In fact, given this century’s fickle electorate, you could argue that McGuinty’s record is unsurpassed.

And yet, only a few months ago, the HST, the string of broken fiscal promises, boondoggles like e-health, the solar path to nowhere, and the hated wind turbines threatened to hand-deliver the election to neophyte Conservative headman Tim Hudak, or perhaps to an even greener NDP leader, Andrea Horvath.

Hudak was new as leader, but had been a prominent Mike Harris cabinet minister. He strived mightily before the election to distance himself from the Harris legacy, but when the writ dropped, the dark side emerged once again: chain gangs. Shackled criminals roaming the Gelert Road in search of old Tim’s cups.

Hudak desperately needed to pick up seats in Toronto and the 905, regions with one of the most diverse populations in the world. So he dumped on some modest, hands-up help for “foreign workers.” He coddled and allied himself with a bizarre Toronto mayor whose popularity was plunging in real-time. In the final weeks of the campaign he falsely accused McGuinty (and his former Education Minister) of advocating cross-dressing courses for six-year-olds. And when the charge was proven to be false, he refused to disassociate himself from the position. The Minister in question was re-elected last night with a huge majority.

You can forcefully argue about whether or not Premier Pops deserved to be re-elected. But you can’t argue that the Tories blew an extraordinary opportunity to regain power — with their wedge issues, their dislike of differences in appearance and outlook, all the while conveying a meanness of spirit that was summarily rejected by urban Ontario.

Here at home, the thousands of Conservatives who sat on their hands in the 2008 by-election that elected Rick Johnson went back to the polls and forgave Tory lifer Laurie Scott for deserting them.

So we now have a loyal (and honest, and hard-working) opposition backbencher to represent our interests, instead of a parliamentary secretary and possibly minister with actual influence. Is it a case of all politics is local, or cutting off your nose to spite your face?

## It must hurt to do your best and still lose your job

Laurie Scott was and will be a fine MPP. But Rick Johnson was just about everything you could ask for in a representative, and the riding still kicked him out.

If there was a community fundraiser, Rick was there, often toting his guitar and pitching in; he wasn’t above doing the hard work of volunteers or talking at length with his constituents. When community leaders needed help with a project or shaking down reticent provincial bureaucrats on our behalf, Rick was on the other end of the line, and in our court.

In truth, Johnson ran a lacklustre

campaign. His ads looked like tawdry shopping lists of how his government has thrown around our money; by the time he showed up for the debate at the Pinestone, he looked tired and annoyed at the whole process, barely raising his voice over the shameful hecklers. Even his signs were a non-committal burgundy; he shunned Liberal red, perhaps knowing instinctively it wasn’t going to help.

Also against Johnson was the performance of his government, which over eight years has still failed to solve major problems in healthcare and job growth. Their

toleration of outrageous waste — be it e-Health, executive salaries or G8 summits — was deserving of rebuke and indeed investigation. But Johnson had little responsibility for that.

There is no reason to think Scott isn’t as decent and hard working as Johnson, that she won’t be an equally strong representative for the riding. But we had a sure thing in Rick Johnson, and our rejection of him should be cause to reflect on what kind of community we are that shows a man who worked with such effort and dedication not our appreciation, but the door.



A beautiful week of weather in Haliburton County makes the fall leaves look their best. / Peter Payn

## TheHighlander

Haliburton County's Independent Voice

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**Editor-in-Chief** – Stephen Patrick

**Advisor to the Publisher** – Jack Brezina

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# Letters to the editor

## A courageous step

Dear Editor:

The sudden demise of a community newspaper can be like the passing of a close relative, except that the time of grieving is much foreshortened, to be quickly replaced by feelings of rage and impotence. What kind of communicator would spike their press in the middle of the night, uttering nary a peep, and so inflict shock on the town next day?

Some know my views on fervent nationalism, whether it be Scot or British-based, but I quite like The Highlander as a banner, this title conveying the sense of uplifting peak experiences and of scruffy rebels barricading themselves in rocky defiles, stymieing swarms of lowlanders who have come to acquire prime land and build cottages.

An independent newspaper in these times of corporate consolidation is a treasure that must be protected; but it is also the laudable expression of a community that has got a lot of things together. This courageous step which Bram and Stephen are taking makes me proud to live here in Haliburton, perennially the second most impoverished county in all of Ontario. But never so bad as to come first.

Important things happen every day which go unremarked by the corporate press. Wise words get said and deep exchanges occur which the hegemon refuses to archive. At this auspicious moment I envision the Highlander as a point of articulation for those awake to the wonder of being here.

One love.  
Douglas Smith, Carnarvon

## The Outsider

Highland Fling

By Will Jones

The Highlander, eh? Where I come from, that means northern folk and the Scottish Highlands. I believe our fair Canadian county took its name from the hills and glens of Scotland, too, after pioneering settlers noted a resemblance to their homeland. You may know a different story of course, and I'd be the last to refute it because all I have to back mine up is a Wikipedia entry!

But the Scottish Highlands look nothing like Haliburton County, resplendent as it is in its red, green and golden crown of maple and spruce. The Scottish Highlands are more crew cut than crowning glory, having been stripped of their tree cover a long time ago by inhabitants hungry for building materials and fuel. The hills and valleys are now all rocky crags and tussock grass, dotted with purple blooms of heather and the odd fellow in a skirt, sorry, kilt!

But then again, you folks, or rather your ancestors, stripped Haliburton County of its trees too a while back, didn't you?

Don't deny it: I've seen the historic photos of the landscape around the Donald chemical factory and elsewhere nearby. They look like some horror story where the lead role was a mad axe murderer holding a grudge against the local foliage.



Since then, I notice that your trees have been very well behaved. The spruce even grow in rows. That's what I call keeping them in line (if you'll pardon the pun). Then again, I can see how you did it. My recent foray into gardening – something alien to me until I landed here in Haliburton – has opened up a whole new world of highly aggressive gadgets that would scare most any plant into submission.

The chain saw; yup, pretty horrific if you're a tree. Ride-on lawn mowers the size of family cars; something that not many an English garden warrants – we could prune most suburban lawns with a pair of nail scissors in a couple of hours. And then there are weed whackers – what a name!

You Canadians certainly tell it how it is. Back in Blighty, we have a much more benign version called a strimmer. It runs on electricity rather than roaring into life courtesy of its own engine and is waved around with little more effort than it takes to swing a handbag. The plants don't take much notice of it and many of the weeds remain standing defiantly tall even after a couple of passes with it. But a weed whacker, there's a tool.

Strapped in to said dealer of weed destruction, steel toe-caps on, protective

eye-wear lashed to my face, I recently vibrated across the garden towards a clump of weeds. Plants, critters and my son Little Z cowered as I strode by. I had spotted a spruce sapling that had decided to rally against the years of wisdom inherited from his forefathers and grow out of line. Vzzzzzz, VZZZZZZZZZZZZ. He got whacked, mob style, out in the open in view of all the other spruce. I felt like I had sent them a message. Stepping back, I growled in a menacing voice: "Mess with me again and I bring out the brush saw."

But I digress. We were talking about the Highlander, Highlands and all things High Brow. See that, I linked the Highlander with intellectual stuff in the space of eight words! And, apart from this column maybe, your new newspaper will be full of the brightest and best in Haliburton County. We'll give you the high brow, middle road and low down on what's what and what's not, all the way from Dysart to Eyre and McClintock and a whole lot of places in between: not all of them with Scottish names and most of them donning a fine head of trees, some well trained, others an unruly but beautiful mob of red and gold.

Dear Editor:

## A Bold Election Prediction

Congratulations on the launch of The Highlander! We need a variety of Haliburton media voices as much as we need a variety of representation in Queen's Park.

I have a bold prediction for the impending Ontario election. Well, not so bold because it happens with distressing regularity. Some party will be outrageously endowed with many more seats than their votes should allow. The Ontario Liberals in the last election got 66 percent of the seats with only 42 percent of the votes.

Some party will have a near death experience and a party leader will resign. The Manitoba Liberals are now on life support getting one seat of 57 in Manitoba last Tuesday, Oct. 4. The Progressive Conservative leader in Manitoba just resigned. A campaign worker introducing him for his resignation speech on election night ruefully commented that in many elections, 44% of the votes would mean a majority of seats.

In the election, the Liberals at 8 percent of the vote and the Conservatives with 44 percent (N.D.P. 46 percent) would have a majority of votes but they don't have the seats, only 20, of 37. In any case, coalition there is shunned. Ontario will be in the exact same situation on the evening of Oct. 6. Only the party names will be different.

All this is absurd and it does not really respect the actual votes and intentions of the electorate. It has many other bad effects if we stop to consider them.

Regards  
Jim Milne, Haliburton

Dear Editor:

## Get that sign off my lawn!

I was not impressed to come home one day before the election to find Laurie Scott's campaign sign on my lawn and on the property of a recently deceased woman's home across the street! Not only did I not give permission to allow my lawn to be used for political advertising, I have never been approached by anyone from the PC party. I can only wonder how they ever received permission to use the property across the street!

I guess with only one day to go the reaction will be, "oops, sorry", but the damage has been done.

If I had ever considered voting PC before, which I hadn't, I certainly won't be now.

Sincerely  
Jon Petrie, Eagle Lake



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**Tuesday**  
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**Wednesday**  
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chance of showers



# Around the County



Pioneer fence at Essonville.

## Haliburton Gives Thanks

The history of the European settlement of Haliburton County is one of struggle, bravery and hardship. It's also one of a profound love of the land, and a deep dedication to family, community and faith. We'd like to offer you a few images of that honourable past as all Haliburton residents -seasonal, permanent, or just visiting - celebrate this beautiful Thanksgiving weekend in a spirit of peace and tolerance.

*Photos by Peter Payn*



Essonville Pioneer Cemetery.



Zion United Church.

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# Around the County

## Highlands East shown water plan

By Jerry Grozelle

A delegation from the Crowe Valley Conservation Authority (CVCA) attended the September meeting of Highlands East Council to present an overview of the Source Water Protection Program, review the draft policies and ask for council's input. Municipalities will help to develop policies that will help to ensure the safety of the drinking water supply.

Vicki Woolfrey and Marnie Guidon of the CVCA spent about an hour explaining the process and the draft policies that have been developed.

"The purpose of the Clean Water Act is to protect existing and future sources of drinking water and we're going to be focusing on municipal drinking water this time," Woolfrey said. "The main purpose of this whole program is prevention - safeguarding our drinking water sources."

Woolfrey told council that comments on the draft policies should be submitted in writing by the municipality. Guidon outlined the draft policies and how they relate to Highlands East.

The goal of the Source Water protection Program is to ensure that problems such as the contamination of the Walkerton water supply and the resultant consequences don't recur. The program coordinators are currently in the process of fine-tuning policies to ensure that waste systems, agricultural operations, fuel storage and other potential threats to drinking water sources are minimized and controlled.

The municipality's responsibilities and the timelines for implementation of policies were discussed.

Highlands East has two municipal water well systems - Cardiff and Dyno Estates.

Part of the process is to identify locations of vulnerable areas and develop




Vicki Woolfrey of the Crowe Valley Conservation Authority explains the Source Water Protection Program to Highlands East Council.

management practices to minimize the impact of on those areas. "A lot of this stuff is already taken care of," said Councillor Steve Kauffeldt.

Environmental Supervisor Glen Covert added that the township has been proactive in regard to source water protection. He cited the by-law restricting the use of pesticides and the switch from oil to propane heat in some municipal facilities.

Municipalities will have until the end of October to review the draft policies and make comments and suggestions.




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## Five Algonquin Highlands candidates certified

By Jerry Grozelle

Voters in Algonquin Highlands Ward Three will have five candidates from which to choose on November 14 in the by-election to replace Councillor Gary Schultz, who stepped down in July.

Although seven people submitted letters of intent to run for the councillor position, only five followed through with the filing of nomination papers.

Three of the candidates, Marlene Kyle, John Salvagna and Colin Smith, reside in the Dwight area; the other two, Bob Buckingham

and Brian Lynch, are Dorset area residents.

Nomination Day was September 30 and the five candidates have been certified as qualified by Algonquin Highlands Clerk Dawn Newhook, who verified that the nominations met the requirements of the Municipal Elections Act.

"I've been contacted by a couple of candidates who were looking for direction on where to find information or what issues there might be, so there's definitely some interest there," said Reeve Carol Moffatt.

# Around the County



Susan MacDonald with her many loved ones.

## Glebe Park goes to the dogs

Committee will discuss the philosophical implications of off-leash area

By Terrance Gavan

If anyone has not seen the movie “Dog Park” I highly recommend it. It’s about life, love, obedience, obeisance and managing boundaries.

Susan MacDonald is a dog lover. She’s also a dog breeder who wants to provide Haliburton’s many dog lovers with an off-leash dog park.

MacDonald appeared before Dysart et al’s Glebe Park Committee on Tuesday (Oct. 4) asking them to consider fencing a part of Glebe Park – in off season, entailing about nine months of the year, excluding summer – and turning it into an off-leash haven.

Dysart et al’s municipal by-laws state that dogs could only be off leash while on private property – or during hunting season.

MacDonald is one of only three breeders of Australian Koolies in Canada. She works part-time as a dog groomer.

Her appearance at the Glebe Park Committee is the first step in a long bureaucratic process – yes, she is aware that it’s a novel idea – that will eventually entail getting approval from Dysart Council.

“We don’t have an off-leash space in Haliburton right now,” said MacDonald at her home shortly after the Tuesday meeting.

She told Glebe Park Committee Chair Jim Blake that she’s done the requisite due diligence and has even priced out the total cost of fencing the proposed area which would be located between the Museum and the Cross-Country Ski Chalet.

Deputy Reeve Bill Davis was concerned how much Dysart would be asked to commit to the off-leash proposal.

MacDonald said that the cost for fencing – fully installed – would run to approximately \$15,000. She added that she would like to integrate with the cross-country ski club to discuss the parameters of their usage requirements to ensure that the dog park would not unduly stress members of the cross-country community in Haliburton.

Use of the dog park will be restricted to spring, summer and autumn, and will be divided into separate areas for large and small dogs. The fencing and gating will be taken down during the tourist season.

MacDonald started a Facebook page – The Haliburton Off Leash Dog Park Facebook

group – at the beginning of September and she explained that it already has close to 100 members. Her plan includes the idea to offset the cost of the fencing and maintenance.

“Right now, dog owners are required to spend \$10 per year to register dogs in Dysart et al,” she said. She told the Glebe Park Committee that her plan would include a \$25 lifetime fee – life of the dog that is – set by the municipality, and that only owners with that tag would be allowed into the off-leash park. She insists, she said later, that this strategy would encourage dog owners who want access to off-leash space to get a license.

You weren’t aware that your dog should be licensed in Dysart to the tune of \$10 per annum? Don’t worry. It’s a by-law that is almost wholeheartedly disregarded by most of the dog-owners in the municipality.

**Susan MacDonald**  
Dog Breeder

*“We don’t have an off-leash space in Haliburton right now,”*

Davis said that there were some big concerns with that change in policy. He said that it would have to be discussed by council. Davis did not sound too positive about the viability of the option, but MacDonald is sticking to her guns on this point.

She cited the large number of dogs in the area (in the five-figure range, including those owned by cottagers) and said that if 650 dog owners decided to opt for off-leash status and registered at \$25 per pet, that alone would pay for the fencing. MacDonald is firm in her conviction that when coupled with yearly additions, grants and fund raising, this is a fiscally viable project that would provide a service and end up costing the municipality very little. She thinks that the Facebook response alone indicates that a group of concerned citizens could actually provide impetus for the \$25 dog registration in the municipality.



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# Around the County

## Artists on display for Studio Tour



Potter Debbie Wales (right) welcomes guests to her studio Sunday, on the first weekend of the annual Studio Tour. The event continues this Saturday and Sunday Oct. 8 and 9, with the work of 28 artists on display throughout the County.

## Minden approves appraisal policy

In a 4-2 vote, Minden Hills approved a policy to allow councillors input into the performance reviews of municipal employees.

Ending a months' long debate, Minden Hills council split along its now-common fault line to approve a controversial policy which will allow municipal councillors to have input into the performance reviews of staff.

The vote saw Reid, Redpath, Clarke and Gall in favour, with Murdoch and Neville against. Councillor Lisa Schell abstained, citing a conflict with her husband's holding the position of Fire Chief.

Constituent Susan Pethick attended to present correspondence from someone she described as a "senior executive with a major human resource consulting firm with a specialty in municipal affairs."

The letter advised that it was unusual and rare for a municipal council or board of directors to participate in employee evaluations.

A memorandum to Council prepared by member Larry Clarke stated the intended purpose of Policy 28, as it is known, is to allow councillors input into performance reviews rather than transfer responsibility for their contents; that responsibility would remain with

the CAO and department heads. The memo explained that councillors were frequently in contact with members of the public and often the recipients of their concerns, complaints and praise. Councillors were therefore well-positioned to provide feedback to municipal employees on the impact of their performance on public satisfaction, a key indicator of the municipality's overall performance, the memo said.

Not all council members agreed. Deputy Reeve Murdoch, a vocal opponent of the policy, reiterated her belief that it was an unnecessary intrusion into a management function.

Her position was that the CAO works with department heads and staff on a daily basis and is better-qualified to make accurate assessments. She further noted that neither the members of County council nor of the three other municipalities participate in performance appraisals.

Contacted by phone after the meeting, Reeve Reid offered her take on what the policy represents.

"It's all about getting a performance evaluation... that is comprehensive and constructive," she said.

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# Around the County



Jane van Nood digging for donations.

## Fresh produce by the lbs

By Will Jones

It's Saturday morning and Jane van Nood is digging in the garden. But she's not digging in *her* garden: Jane and four volunteers are harvesting carrots, beets, rhubarb and tomatoes from John Teljeur's veggie plot. And John's OK with that.

The reason John doesn't mind these ladies plundering his garden is that he is on a crusade to provide fresh vegetables to under-privileged families in our area, and he's doing it by working with a range of charities and not-for-profit organizations in and around Haliburton.

Last week John donated 150lb of fresh produce to six different local community groups. This brings the total he's donated this year to almost 550lbs. He has been able to do this with the help of volunteer veggie pickers and by teaming up with Haliburton County FoodNet, which has all the connections to the right groups and charities.

FoodNet works with 13 different food programs in Haliburton County. They include programs such as community kitchens, meals on wheels, food

banks and prenatal and young family educational food programs, to mention a few.

John first donated food to charity in 2010, when he took his excess produce to the local food bank. He was shocked at the number of families that relied on the food bank to feed their kids.

"As a father, I cannot imagine not being able to give my daughter a basic thing such as healthy food," says John. "Initially, I was shocked at the level of poverty in the area. Now I'm as shocked by the lack of help that these people get. I'm growing and donating my crops to FoodNet to help, of course, but I'm also doing it to prove a point. One person can make a big difference and it's really easy to do, especially if you already grow veggies. Just plant some extra and give them to those in need."

Jane is the community kitchen coordinator at SIRCH, making her one of the lucky recipients of John's generosity. Twice a month Jane and her team of trusty volunteers collect produce, buying 'specials' from the grocery stores and accepting donations such as John's, to cook up a hearty meal which they distribute to around 60 under-privileged families in the area.

"We do our best to help some of the poorest people in the county and make sure that they and their children receive a nutritious meal from time to time," says Jane. "All of our food and the money required to make this scheme work comes from donations and so being able to come and pick John's wonderful vegetables makes all the difference."

Jane not only provides these regular meals, she has spent hours canning mountains of produce, which will be distributed in parcels at Christmas. And she is also about to embark on a new educational program for young moms.

Called Moms in the Kitchen, the initiative will see Jane working with young mothers on a regular basis, showing them great tips for making cheap nutritious meals and for getting their kids to eat their veggies.

"It's OK providing meals, but wouldn't it be great if we could encourage these young moms to get creative in the kitchen," says Jane. "They don't have much money but that isn't a barrier to eating well. You just have to know how."

"At Moms in the Kitchen we'll be talking about nutrition and balanced diets, we'll be demonstrating techniques and we'll be getting the moms cooking. Each week we'll provide free day care for the little ones while we cook a different dish with the moms. They'll get to eat what they cook and also take home a meal for their family. This isn't a handout, it's a hand up."

Working in conjunction with Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program (CPNP) and The Community Action Program

for Children (CAPC), who will supply transport and child care, Jane's new initiative will provide a whole new level of community support to young mothers and their children.

Jane says that the first Moms in the Kitchen will feature pizza-making: "Kids love pizza so there'll be pepperoni and cheese but lots of fresh veggie, too." Future planned meals will include shepherd's pie and veggie chilli. Jane will also be handing out tips on hiding veggies—mashing cauliflower into potatoes is one trick-to ensure the kids get their daily quota.

"As the saying goes, 'give a man a fish and you'll feed him for a day; teach him to fish and you feed him for a lifetime,'" smiles Jane. It is a philosophy that John backs wholeheartedly.

"It's OK handing out food but the real way to help is to educate. Jane and others within the FoodNet network are doing a great job in trying to teach people, especially young mums, how to make the most of their modest means. Providing new skills is just as important as providing food for those in need."

If anyone would like to donate food to

**John Teljeur**  
Veggie Donor

*"As a father, I cannot imagine not being able to give my daughter a basic thing such as healthy food."*

the community kitchen, for distribution to a variety of at-risk groups, please call Jane van Nood on 705 457 8350. Jane says she'll accept donations large and small at her house (4322 County Road 21) or she'll happily pick it up. "I'll even dig it up if you have veggies still in the ground!" she says, laughing.

To donate locally grown food to any other local initiatives, pick up a copy of the Food For All booklet, which is produced by the Health Unit in partnership with FoodNet. It lists dozens of food support programs that provide free or low-cost meals to residents in Haliburton County. Copies of the booklet can be picked up at the Health Unit's office at 191 Highland Street (Unit 31), Haliburton or by calling (705) 457-1391. The Food For All resource is also available by visiting the Health Unit's website at [www.hkpr.on.ca](http://www.hkpr.on.ca) (go to Healthy Lifestyles, then Nutrition, then Access to Food).

For information about Moms in the Kitchen please call or email SIRCH on (705) 457-1742, (888) 405-5555 (toll free) or [info@sirch.on.ca](mailto:info@sirch.on.ca).

More information about John Teljeur's food crusade can be found at <http://johnteljeursfoodcrusade.blogspot.com>.



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# Around the County

## You Go Grannies

By Jack Brezina

It was a crisp autumn day when people from across the Highlands started to converge on the home of Don and Jesse Pflug early Sunday afternoon. It was a perfect day for enjoying the best of autumn's colours, perhaps a bracing walk in the fresh air and a time to think about Africa.

The occasion was a fund-raiser called Harvest Harmonies, organized by the Haliburton Highlands Grannies. Held each year at the Pflugs' home, Stouffer Mill Bed & Breakfast, high on a hill with a spectacular view of Hall's Lake, the afternoon included musical presentations, a small craft fair featuring items from Africa and the Highlands, and a raffle for a quilt. Tasty nibbles and a spicy seasonal mulled punch rounded out the occasion...all very low key, but with a very serious purpose.

When Stephen Lewis, serving as UN ambassador to Africa, saw the devastation that AIDS was leaving across much of the continent, he knew it was a crisis that required immediate attention. A generation was being eliminated by this disease, leaving in its wake orphaned children in the care of their grandmothers.

Through the Stephen Lewis Foundation, he created a grassroots organization that would link grandmothers in developed countries to provide support for those struggling grandmothers in Africa. As the Stephen Lewis Foundation website notes, "African grandmothers are central to the life of their communities. With almost no support, they have stepped forward to care for millions of children orphaned by AIDS, sometimes as many as ten to fifteen in one household. They display astonishing reserves of love, courage and emotional resilience, even while grieving the loss of their own adult children."

"In just five short years, Canadians have raised an astonishing \$12 million for African grandmothers through the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign. Funds from the Campaign are sent directly to the community level, to grassroots organizations that provide grandmothers and the children in their care with supports that include food, educational supplies, uniforms and school fees, medical care, HIV counselling and testing, adequate housing and bedding, counselling and support groups, home visits, and much more."

The call for help was heard here in the Highlands five years ago. Mickey Bonham and Sue Reid formed a local chapter of Grandmothers to Grandmothers with four other members of the community. The group now has a membership 70.

The Haliburton Highlands Grannies, as they call themselves, set a serious target for five years of fund-raising, \$40,000. They hoped to retire that pledge this year and start on a new campaign, and the event on Sunday edged them toward their goal. Harvest Harmonies raised almost \$1,500, pushing their total to \$38,121. With a couple more Christmas events on the calendar, the target just might be reached before the new year.

Peggy Cassils was the spokes-grannie for the group on Sunday. She told the gathering, "As many of us are grandmothers ourselves, we know all too well what our grandchildren mean to us and for that reason many Grandmothers to Grandmothers groups have sprung up across the country and into the US and the UK. We take very seriously the promise made at the 2006 Grandmothers to Grandmothers Gathering in Toronto that we will be a voice for the grandmothers of Africa and that, 'We will not rest until they can rest'."

Amen. And, you go Grannies.



It has been several years in the making, but construction of the Canadian Tire store in Minden is officially underway. Excavators have begun preparing the site for the store, which is expected to employ 25 to 50 people. /Jack Brezina

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# Sports news



Above, the juniors display a swarming defence, beating IE Weldon 40-0. In the first game of the double header, seniors lost 35-0 to Wildcats. /Terrance Gavan

## Bantam “A” win two in exhibition

The Highland Storm Bantam ‘A’ started their season off with two hard-fought exhibition wins over the tough and fast Bancroft Jets. In Bancroft on Saturday night, the Storm broke a scoreless tie five minutes into the third period with a goal by Joseph Patrick, assisted by Curtis Ballantyne. The Jets finally got on the board with just over a minute left to tie, but Braden Roberts, assisted by Devon Upton, netted the winner with 50 seconds to go.

Back in Haliburton on Sunday afternoon, the game started out in scratchy and chippy fashion, no surprise for teams with only a few practices under their belts. In the second period the teams traded goals with the Storm scoring first (Patrick, assisted by Mac Rider and Noah Dollo), and then broke it open with three straight goals: Ballantyne, assisted by Patrick and Dollo; Patrick, from Ballantyne; and Roberts, assisted by Upton.

Goalie Logan Churko was outstanding in both games, cool, confident and totally focused, another indicator that this could be a very competitive group in the Muskoka Parry Sound League, and in the OMHA playdowns in the new year.

The Highland Storm Midgets also played a home and away exhibition series against the Jets, tying both games, 2 -2 in Bancroft and 3-3 at home.

These four games were the first for the Storm to be played with the new Head Contact rule change in effect. The rule states: “... a Minor penalty shall be assessed to any player who accidentally contacts an opponent in the head, face or neck with his stick or any part of the player’s body or equipment.”

Further, “... a Double Minor Penalty of a Major and a Game Misconduct Penalty, at the discretion of the Referee and based on the degree of violence of impact shall be assessed to any player who intentionally contacts an opponent in the head, face or neck with his/her stick or any part of the player’s body or equipment.” And, “A Major and a Game Misconduct penalty, or a Match penalty shall be assessed any player who injures an opponent under this Rule. A Match penalty shall be assessed any player who deliberately attempts to injure or deliberately injures an opponent under this Rule.”

It will take a number of games for both players and refs to get used to the new regime: in all four of these games most of the minor penalties were for accidental contact.

In the Storm’s home opener last weekend versus the Huntsville Otters, the same penalty parade ensued, with each team spending close to 30 minutes in the box, although most of the sins were not of the head contact variety. In the first period the Otters quickly

jumped in front 4 – 2, with Haliburton’s goals coming from Defenseman Mac Rider, assisted by Braydin Hollows and Curtis Ballantyne, and a beautiful individual effort from Devon Upton. In the third period the Storm narrowed the gap to 4 –2 on another goal by Rider, assisted by Braden Roberts, but the Otters put it away with just seven minutes to go: final score, Huntsville 5 – Storm 3. But

the Storm squad, once they woke up, played hard, competitive hockey, and all in all it was a reasonable start to the season.

Tonight (October 7th) the Storm play the Parry Sound Shamrocks at 7 PM in Minden.

***The Highlander invites team managers/writers to submit game reports for publication.***



# Sports news

## Duchene's agent talking Tavares-style extension

### Hodgson touted as Calder candidate

By Terrance Gavan

Call it a harbinger. Heck, call it fate.

Vancouver Province writer Gordon McIntyre reports that Cody Hodgson showed up to the Vancouver Canucks UBC training facility this week, looked up and "found his helmet now sports No. 9, displacing No. 39; higher numbers are usually reserved for prospects and wannabes."

"It's a number I wore in minor hockey and it's pretty special to me because a lot of players I grew up idolizing wore 9 or 19 or 91," Hodgson told McIntyre. "It's an honour to wear it."

For Hodgson, a Haliburton cottager and a member of Haliburton's Hockey Hall of Fame, that gesture represents the culmination of a long, laborious journey that began way back in 2008, when the talented centerman – Junior Gold Medalist, CHL Player of the Year – was drafted tenth overall by the Vancouver Canucks in the NHL entry draft.

Hodgson's travails have been well-documented since then. Back problems, some friction with the Canucks front office, followed by the de rigueur growing pains endured by many young players seeking entrance to hockey's signature league, all served to delay the young man's NHL debut.

Last year he was called up for the Canucks' run to the Stanley Cup finals. Trade rumours were rife. Since then? The sharp young man has had an epiphany of sorts. He came to camp this year determined, fit, chiseled, and pain free, the result of a summer's regimen at Gary Roberts' Emporium of Pain. Roberts is a freak of nature, an ex NHL journeyman with some unique ideas vis-à-vis fitness, diet and chicken soup for the Hockey Soul.

Hodgson and his team - which include Cody's dad Chris, who represented Brock-Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes as an MPP and Minister in the Mike Harris PC government - also enlisted the help of Claude Lemieux, a wily NHL veteran who is tough, talented and a possessor of that je ne sais quoi intangible. Lemieux was there for Hodgson's noodle, lending sorcerer's secrets to a willing pupil; and Cody Hodgson has benefited from all that mentorship.

He's had a great pre-season with the Canucks and is starting the 2011-12 season penciled in as the Canucks second line center.

Now that's one number '9' dealt with. We switch venues to Colorado, where the Haliburton Hurricane, Matt Duchene has been climbing, "one step at a time," the stairs to success – that's a Matt metaphor

by the way - over two successful and splendid seasons with the Avalanche. Last year 'Dutchy' led his team in scoring. The year before he was nominated for the Calder Cup –the NHL's Rookie of the Year award. Like Hodgson – the two played together on the OHL's Brampton Battalion and are good friends – Duchene wears number 9. Apropos of the Calder Cup? Five articles slid into my mailbox yesterday touting Hodgson as an outside shot for the Calder. Way too early for that kind of talk; but, then again, not an entirely fanciful premonition either.

I had a chance to talk to Duchene just before he jumped on the plane back to Denver for the first week of training camp back at the end of August. You may have seen Duchene this summer, enjoying Quesadillas at McKecks or at one of the many charity events he attends every off-season.

He loves his home in Haliburton and says that coming back for the summer gives him the space to unwind from the pressures of an arduous NHL season.

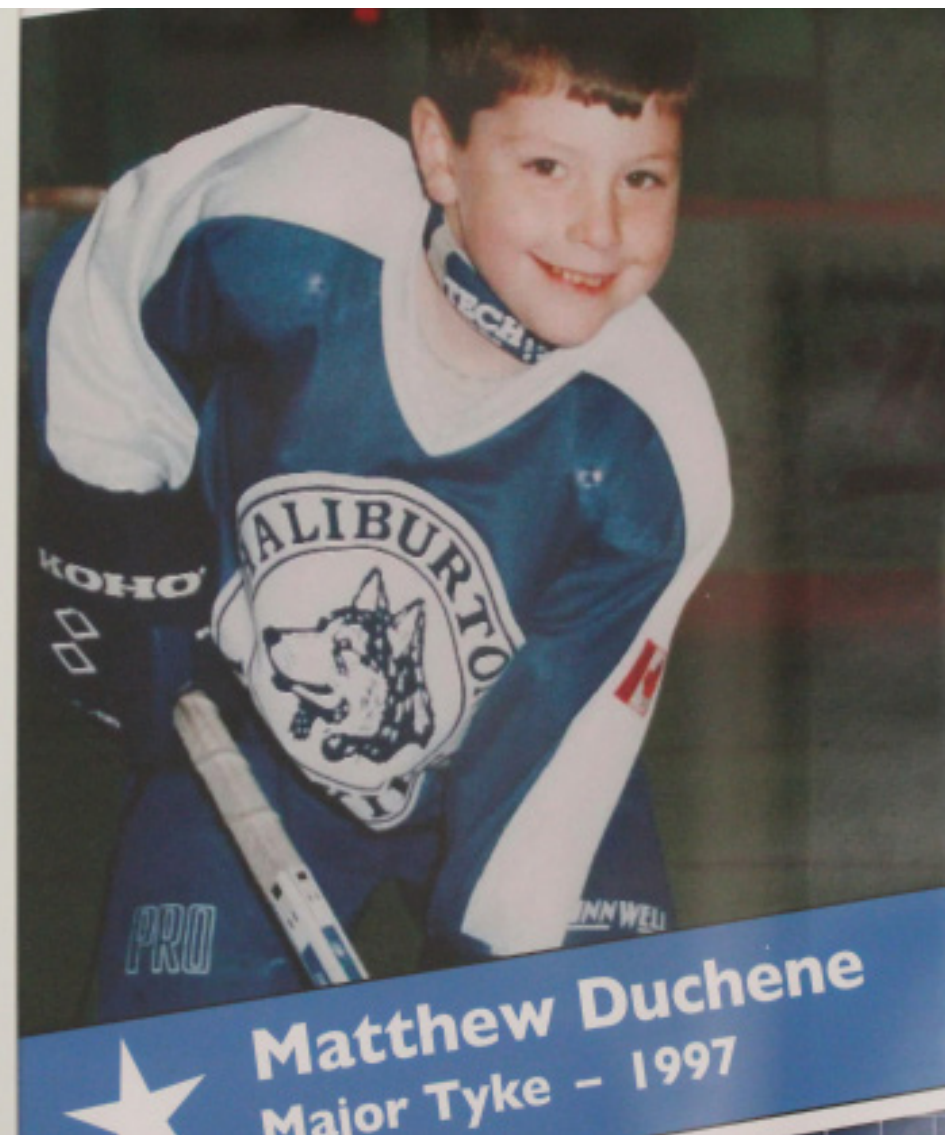
He built a gym at the family digs this summer. He says that he will be buying a house/cottage in the area – sooner than later. He has moved out of his two-year rental agreement with former Av's Captain Adam Foote and is now living as a bachelor.

His last week in Haliburton was, ahem, busy. The night I contacted his mom, Chris Duchene, who is a student advisor at Hal High, about an interview, a CBC Hockey Night in Canada crew was just leaving.

They shot a segment of Matt and dad



Vince playing guitar together. That will be airing early in the NHL season. I'll get a date and post it here ASAP. Vince by the way also coached daughter Jessica



Duchene in the inaugural season of varsity girls' hockey at Hal High. Yes, Jessica "can play!"

Big news floating in the press this week concerns a possible contract extension with eye-popping numbers.

Mike Chambers of the Denver Post reports that Duchene, who is represented by Pat Brisson – who also represents John Tavares – is worthy of Tavares's numbers when his entry level contract is renegotiated. Chambers writes that, "(Duchene) is the highest-scoring player from his 2009 draft class, having amassed 122 points (51 goals) in 161 games over two seasons. In an otherwise forgetful 2010-11 season, he became the youngest player in Quebec/Colorado franchise history to lead the team in scoring, with 67 points (27 goals) in 80 games.

"The second-highest scorer from the 2009 draft class is New York Islanders center John Tavares, who has two more career goals than Duchene but one fewer point. Tavares was picked first in that draft and Duchene third. Tavares recently signed a six-year, \$33 million extension. Duchene is looking at a similar boost."

Brisson remains tight-

lipped and told Chambers that he has not discussed an extension for Duchene with the Avalanche. That hasn't stopped NBC, the Post and other outlets from speculating that Duchene will re-sign for similar numbers.

Duchene was, as ever, diplomatic, while trying to divest himself from the subject.

"If I take care of business, that's a reward. That's not something that you aim for. It's not a destination. It's a byproduct."

And that my good friends, is, unerringly, the proper way to clear the decks and

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If interested in either of these opportunity, please submit a resume in confidence by October 26, 2011 to:

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Fax: 705-457-2398  
www.hhhs.on.ca

We thank all applicants for their interest, however only those candidates chosen for interviews will be contacted.

# And finally

## Fred Eaglesmith – from Letterman to Haliburton

### Raconteur and songwriter coming to McKecks Blue Line

By Terrance Gavan

Who is Fred Eaglesmith?  
Fred Eaglesmith defies description or categorization.  
I have seen him only once in concert, at a small venue out west. But I’ve listened to him for two decades.  
He’s a hard guy to pin down. Fred Eaglesmith is coming to Haliburton and McKecks Blue Line on Oct 20.  
His shows are worth four times the paltry \$25 McKecks is charging. Because Eaglesmith is more than a writer and a raconteur.  
He’s a showman. One of those guys who steps into a bar with the dust of the long lonesome road trailing viscerally in his wake.  
Dennis O’Toole, a freelance Peterborough music reviewer, described two years ago just what this ill-defined troubadour brings to the dance floor.  
“Fred Eaglesmith makes music that defies categorization or imitation,” wrote O’Toole, via the Peterborough Examiner. “Blending bluegrass sensibility and rockabilly swagger with the raw emotion of country and gospel at its best; an Eaglesmith show is unlike anything that your hard-earned dollar is going to buy a ticket to in this town or any other.”  
Eaglesmith spurns with arcane ardour the norms of contemporary wisdom. A concert with Fred is a hodgepodge. An eclectic rumination on life, love and stories gleaned from Fred’s freakishly incandescent career.  
When I saw him, he was playing this strange orange Gretsch electric guitar. With ruthless abandon, Fred has been on the road playing one-man sets for over 30 years now.  
He was born in Born in Caistor Centre, Ont., and is currently based in nearby Port Dover. He plays America and abroad, but most of the time he’s happy just touring Canada.  
“I tour every little town, all the backwaters,” Eaglesmith told Jared Storey of Metro Winnipeg recently.  
“I’m on this huge tour right now playing places even I’ve never even heard of. It’s so great to be in some little bar in the middle of some little backwater in the middle of Canada and the people come out. They’re happy and I just love it.”  
Eaglesmith also appeared on Letterman in 2010 – his network debut – playing “Careless” from his newest CD, Cha-Cha-Cha. (Just Google Fred Eaglesmith-Letterman). If you go to the YouTube video, you will see a version of Eaglesmith that you won’t see at McKecks. It displays his versatility and I’m sure that many of his dedicated fans – called FredHeads – were absolutely gobsmacked.  
His traditional cult songs include *I like Trains* (epitomical Fred) and his ode to Texas, *Time to Get a Gun*.  
Some politically correct fans have taken issue with Fred songs that have been covered by some popular artists. Alan Jackson covered *Freight Train*, Miranda Lambert did *Time to Get a Gun*, and, most notably, Toby Keith, on his 2007 album Big Dog Daddy, the Uncle Sam lovin’ country music icon covered Eaglesmith’s song *White Rose*.  
“I’ve been doing it a long, long time, so I just know how to do it,” Eaglesmith, 52, told the Metro’s Storey. “It’s just normal. It really is. The first time I left home was just hitching and hopping freights. I was 15. Then in my early 20s I started going on the road with music and I’ve been doing it ever since, off and on, mostly on (laughs). “I played for eight to 10 people and then the next year there’d be 15, then 20, and now there’s 150 to 200,” Eaglesmith says. “That’s really hard work, but you get a really loyal following.”  
So who is Fred Eaglesmith?  
Head to McKecks and judge for yourself.



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Haliburton County's Independent Voice

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